

Appl. No. : Unknown  
Filed : Herewith

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the below heading and paragraph [0001] before the *Background of the Invention* section of the present application.

### Cross Reference to Related Application

[0001] This patent application is a continuation application of U.S. application Serial No. 10/190,777 filed July 5, 2002, entitled "Tufting Machine."

Please amend paragraph [0072] as indicated below.

[0072] The portion of the central member 178 between the roller bearings 180 and 188, 190 includes an outer covering 192, which is configured to provide traction with the yarn strands Y1, Y2. Preferably, the outer covering 192 is made from a vulcanized polymer. A presently preferred covering 192 is polyurethane that is vulcanized to the central member 178. Such a polyurethane is available in a variety of widths, or can be suit to a desired width. Preferably, the polyurethane is wound around the central member 178 in a plurality of layers and then heated to vulcanize the layers together and to the central member 178. After vulcanization, the vulcanized polyurethane is preferably ground to provide a more uniform outer surface. As such, the covering 192 can be provided with a surface that is smoother than that of the prior art, helically-wound, outer coverings.